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1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT March 12, 2014

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network: A small core group of the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) has been working to vet the key concepts in the DRN Framework with leadership and staff in key agencies. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2014. The Delta Science Program will make a presentation on Delta monitoring program coordination.

The Conservancy continues to work with its partners to identify and prioritize the additional fields and functionality needed in EcoAtlas for tracking restoration projects in the Delta. User group meetings will be scheduled this spring to review and assess proposed additions and changes.

Arundo Control and Restoration Program: The Conservancy is in the contracting phase with the Department of Water Resources for the first phase of the Delta Arundo Control and Restoration Program.

Channel Margin Habitat: The Conservancy is seeking funds to implement a demonstration project—in partnership with state agencies and other organizations—using a technology that can provide stability to levees and habitat for aquatic and avian species.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network: The Conservancy is initiating the Delta Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), a diverse partnership with a broad range of organizations and community groups sharing an interest in protecting and restoring the watershed health of the Delta. The network will be a community-based, voluntary initiative that connects activities, resources, organizations, and programs. Delta WIN objectives are to work with local organizations and community members to protect water quality and sustain the ecological benefits of watersheds. Delta WIN will support a broad list of projects in partnership with other organizations and agencies. The Conservancy is pursuing grant funds to support the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) for watershed improvements. Current partners include the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and the Yolo Basin Foundation.

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Economic Development

Delta Branding and Marketing: Brand alternatives are currently being developed by the branding consultant. Three alternatives will be presented to the community, the Conservancy Board, and Delta Protection Commission in May 2014. The consultant is using information gathered via the January Discovery meetings, one-on-ones, small group meetings, and familiarization tours throughout the region to develop the brand and accompanying logo. After presenting the three alternatives, the consultant will collect feedback and fine tune the designs to develop a final Delta brand and logo. The Conservancy and the Commission anticipate posting the alternatives on agency web sites and at a few key locations throughout the Delta to collect comments from the community.

The Conservancy released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) in early February for the marketing components of this project. Conservancy staff will be working through the State's contracting process to finalize the offer to the marketing consultant.

CSUS Public History Project: The Conservancy is partnering with California State University Sacramento's Public History Program to collect oral histories of pear farmers in the Delta. Approximately eight graduate students will be meeting with eight to ten growers to explore Delta farmers and their families' histories. The Commission is also partnering with the Public History Program, working with graduate students to collect stories of the Japanese in Walnut Grove, post-WWII.

Education and Outreach

California Drought: On December 17, 2013, Governor Brown formed an inter-agency task force on drought. The task force has been meeting weekly since January 3rd. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued a State of Emergency due to the drought. The drought proclamation—with its 20 orders—provided direction to state agencies and departments. The Conservancy has created a drought page with links about the drought on its website to provide information to the public. The Conservancy will continue to get updates from the Task Force and keep the community informed.

US EPA Environmental Education Grant: The Conservancy submitted an application for a US Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Grant. The proposed project is a multi-generational, multi-cultural approach to design and implement environmental education activities to help reduce exposure to mercury by human consumers of contaminated Delta fish.

The grant is for \$200,000 for a two-year program. State partners include the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Water Resources. If awarded the grant, the Conservancy may begin working on this project as soon as July 1, 2014. These funds would augment the recently approved MERP project.

Delta Dialogues: The Conservancy continues to take a leadership role in the Delta Dialogues. Meetings continued in January and February 2014, and are planned to continue through the end of the fiscal year. Unfortunately, additional funding for the project's facilitators was not secured; therefore, Conservancy staff along with the Dialogue participants will design and lead the conversations. This was the intended trajectory for

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the project. Participants continue to express their appreciation to the Conservancy for developing and hosting the Dialogues and the need for this kind of process in California water policy.

A Practical Workshop: The Science Behind Climate Change Impacts in the Delta: On February 13, 2014, the Conservancy and Water Education Foundation offered in West Sacramento a *free* all-day workshop discussing climate change issues. Scientists and technical experts discussed flood, levees, and subsidence issues, as well as potential impacts to the ecosystem, commercial fisheries, agriculture, and roadway infrastructure. The day concluded with a panel on local, regional, and state policy perspectives.

Finding Ways to Restore Delta Habitat and Protect Property Owners: In late January, the Conservancy and the Water Education Foundation offered two half-day workshops. The first one in Courtland, and the second in Stockton. These workshops provided landowners, as well as federal and state agency representatives information on how major restoration projects impact private landowners, and what protections are available.

Community Training Program: On February 12, 2014, the Conservancy partnered with the Nonprofit Resource Center and the Delta Protection Commission in Walnut Grove to host a workshop entitled *Marketing Your Delta Business: Using Delta Stories and Cross-Promotional Strategies*. The workshop supported the Delta branding and marketing project and focused on using Delta stories and cross-promotional strategies to market Delta farms and businesses. Sixteen people attended the workshop.

Delta Waterway Clean-Up: In partnership with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, the Conservancy received a \$3,000 grant to continue the cleanup, expand the outreach in the Delta, and provide Water Stewardship Environmental Education to Delta high school students. Partnering with the Commission, the Conservancy is hosting three sites: two at Lower Morrison Creek (Bufferlands) and one at Sherman Island. In partnership with Bridgestone's One Team One Planet tire recycling program, the Conservancy is hosting another Tire Recycling Point which is open to Delta residents who have illegally dumped tires; the site will be held at the Sherman Island clean-up site on Saturday, April 12, 9am-Noon.

JANUARY 22, 2014 - BOARD MEETING BOARD DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

1. Staff will work with Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) partners to consider how to educate visitors who are coming to the Delta to fish, about mercury exposure.
 - *Response:* After the interagency agreement is executed, staff will work with MERP partners to consider how to educate those outside the Delta—visiting to fish—about mercury exposure.
2. Staff will provide copies of presentations and will make additional copies upon request.
 - *Response:* Staff will provide a limited number of copies of presentations and will make additional copies available upon request.

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3. Staff will draft a comment letter to the BDCP lead agencies that states the Conservancy's role in the implementation of BDCP. An attachment to the letter will analyze the Conservancy's mandates and consider how they may be related to the implementation of BDCP.
 - *Response:* Staff researched relevant chapters of the BDCP and prepared a table presenting the Conservancy's legislative responsibilities, current projects meeting its responsibilities, and how the Conservancy's legislative responsibilities are related to the implementation of the BDCP for the March Board meeting. Staff will prepare a draft comment letter to BDCP using information from this table.
4. Staff will include a discussion about the drought declaration and how it affects the Delta community at its May 2014 board meeting.
 - *Response:* Staff will coordinate with the Drought Task Force and will make information related to the drought available on the Conservancy's website. Staff will also include a presentation by the Drought Task Force at the May Board meeting

Delta Conservancy Budget Update

Agenda Item 6:2: The attached Delta Conservancy FY 2013-14 Budget Update summarizes the budget plan and expenditure for this fiscal year.

Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

Agenda Item 6.4: The attached Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix summarizes the most recent events and lists the key dates of future meetings.

Contact Person:

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Assistant Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Phone: (916) 375-2086